Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 3 as follows:

FIG. 4 is a partial cross-sectional view of a variation of the distal portion of ~~the guidewire in Figure 3~~ a guidewire;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 16 as follows:

The reinforcing member in Figure 5 is a coil 50. The coil 50 may be disposed about the distal section 15 of the guidewire 10. The coil 50 can be formed from a variety of materials including metals, metal alloys, polymers, and the like. The coil 50 may preferably include nickel-titanium alloy. Some other examples of material for use in the coil 50 include stainless steel, nickel-chromium alloy, nickel-chromium-iron alloy, cobalt alloy, a polymer material such as a high performance polymer, or other suitable materials. In some embodiments, the coil 50 or portions thereof can be made of, include or be coated with a radiopaque material such as gold, platinum, tungsten, or the like, or alloys thereof. In a preferred embodiment, a nickel-titanium alloy coil [[to]] is used with a stainless steel core 14.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 of page 20 as follows:

Figure 8 shows an alternative embodiment of a guidewire having a distal section 215. The guidewire includes a reinforcing member 250 disposed on a tapered portion 242 of the core wire 214. It is therefore contemplated that the reinforcing member 250 may be located on a portion of the core wire 214 having a variable cross-section. The tapered portion 242 is located between proximal region 240 and distal region 244. Distal region 244 may be of a circular cross-section or may be ribbon shaped. Outer polymer layer 270 may be disposed over at least a portion of the distal region 215 forming a rounded tip 232. Alternatively, a coil could overlay the reinforcing member 250, as in Figure 2.